

Docket No. AUS9-2000-0449-US1

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

**A METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR UPDATING NEW VERSIONS OF
FIRMWARE IN THE BACKGROUND**

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A method, system, and computer program for updating
firmware in a data processing system as a background
operation allowing a user to utilize the computer for
other purposes during the update process is provided. In
10 one embodiment, after an operating system has been loaded
and control has been transferred from the service
processor to the host, the service processor determines
whether the level of a firmware copy on a system
component, such as an SPCN card, matches the current
15 level of firmware stored on a non-volatile memory
accessible to the service processor. If the level of the
firmware copy in the component is different from the
current level, the service processor transfers the
current level of firmware from the non-volatile memory
20 accessible to the service processor to the system
component.